

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A skin massage device (10);

the device comprising a handset (100; 200; 300) connected to a machine body; said handset (100; 200; 300) in turn comprising a chamber (102; 202) closed by a deformable membrane (103; 203) which at least partly adheres to a patient's skin (S) by virtue of a vacuum generated in said chamber (102; 202) by a vacuum generating device (12);

wherein the device (10) comprises means (13) for producing a variable vacuum in said chamber (102; 202) to deform said membrane (103; 203) thereby lifting, folding, compressing, and smoothing the patient's skin (S);

wherein said membrane (103) comprises a central portion (103b) having a plurality of holes ~~at least one hole~~ (103c) for lifting a portion (S1) of the skin (S); and two lateral portions (103d, 103e), thicker than said central portion (103b), which are movable by the vacuum generated inside the chamber (102); and

wherein each of said lateral portions (103d, 103e) ~~each~~ has two projections (103f, 103g).

Claims 2-8 (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A device (10) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said membrane (103; 203) is disposable separately from said device.

10. (Previously presented) A device (10) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said membrane

(203) comprises a central through hole (204); an ultrasound emitting device (210) being housed in said central through hole (204);

wherein each lateral portion (203d, 203e) has through holes (211, 212) by which to lift and treat portions (S2, S3) of the skin (S), while a central portion (S1) of skin is subjected solely to the action of said ultrasound emitting device (210).

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) A device (10) as claimed in Claim 1 , wherein said handset (100; 200; 300) has means for activating and programming said device.

14. (Previously presented) A device (10) as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said means (11) for activating and programming said device is programmable to perform pulsating treatment cycles of a patient's skin (S) as determined by an operator.

15. (Currently amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said lateral portions ~~each~~ has through holes by which to lift and treat the skin.

16. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 10, wherein said membrane comprises a collar around said central through hole; said ultrasound emitting device being fixed to said collar.

17. (New) A device according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of holes (103c) of the central portion (103b) are aligned and spaced from one another between the two lateral portions (103d, 103e).

18. (New) A device according to claim 1, wherein the central portion (103b) has one central hole and two lateral holes which are aligned and spaced from one another between the two lateral portions (103d, 103e).

19. (New) A device according to claim 1, wherein the central portion (103b) extends transversely across a surface of the membrane (103) between the two lateral portions (103d, 103e).

20. (New) A device according to claim 19, wherein the central portion (103b) and the two lateral portions (103d, 103e) are substantially aligned with one another.

21. (New) A device according to claim 1, wherein the two lateral portions (103d, 103e) extend transversely across a surface of the membrane (103) and the two projections (103f, 103g) of each of the two lateral portions (103d, 103e) are spaced transversely from one another.

22. (New) A device according to claim 21, wherein the projections (103f, 103g) of the lateral portions (103d, 103e) are substantially dome-shaped.

23. (New) A device according to claim 1, wherein the central portion is convex with respect to the chamber (102; 202) and the lateral portions (103d, 103e) are concave with respect to the chamber (102; 202).

24. (New) A device according to claim 23, wherein the projections (103f, 103g) of the lateral portions (103d, 103e) form knuckles over the concave lateral portions (103d, 103e).